

poverty and pursue American interests across the globe. After 40 years, it's an idea whose time has come.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

July 13, 1999: Debbie Ahl, 39, Nashville, TN; Desiree Battle, Detroit, MI; Antonio Darias, 49, Miami-Dade County, FL; Leonardo Duran, 18, Houston, TX; Doug Harris, 31, Cincinnati, OH; Stefanie Harris, 29, Cincinnati, OH; Romero Jones, 19, St. Louis, MO; Sigmund Linberger, 34, Akron, OH; Michael McKinnon, 18, Nashville, TN; Rodolfo Recendez, 32, Fort Worth, TX; Dylan Sertich, 22, Toledo, OH; Unidentified male, 16, Long Beach, CA; Unidentified male, 35, Nashville, TN.

One of the victims of gun violence I mentioned, 19-year-old Romero Jones from Missouri, grew up in tough circumstances and turned his life around after a troublesome childhood. Romero worked with his city's "Cease Fire Program" to reach out to young people to encourage them to give up their involvement with gangs and pursue job training and careers. Romero sat on the stage with President Clinton during the President's 1995 visit to St. Louis to discuss the city's successes in addressing crime.

Romero was shot and killed in what police say was a case of mistaken identity—no drugs or money were found in Romero's home following his tragic death.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The time has come to enact sensible gun legislation. Our country cannot afford to lose more of its promising young leaders like Romero Jones. His death is a reminder to all of us that we need to act now.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,664,141,886,637.91 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-four billion, one hundred forty-one million, eight hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred thirty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents).

One year ago, July 12, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,621,471,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred twenty-one

billion, four hundred seventy-one million).

Five years ago, July 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,927,811,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-seven billion, eight hundred eleven million).

Ten years ago, July 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,152,770,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred seventy million).

Fifteen years ago, July 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,792,949,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred ninety-two billion, nine hundred forty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,871,192,886,637.91 (Three trillion, eight hundred seventy-one billion, one hundred ninety-two million, eight hundred eighty-six thousand, six hundred thirty-seven dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WILLIAM J. BECKHAM, JR. MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to the life of one of Michigan's great civic leaders, William J. Beckham, Jr. After living a remarkably accomplished life, sadly, Bill passed away April 27 while on vacation with his beloved wife, Mattie Maynard Beckham. This week, Bill's friends and colleagues and members of the Senate and the House will come together in our Nation's capital to celebrate his memory and his legacy.

Bill loved life and all the important things in it—his family, his friends, school kids, and his African American heritage. Bill loved the difference that he was making in Michigan through his work on school reform—enhancing and expanding the quality of education for all students in the Detroit public school system. Behind Bill's dignified, gentle yet deliberate manner was a fierce determination to help improve the everyday lives of families. Multitudes were beneficiaries of his visionary efforts. He showed that character and the principles of hard work, integrity and perseverance can transform one's dreams into reality. He has left a mark of great achievement in civil rights, education, economic and political reform.

Bill had a distinguished career of public service in Michigan, which included positions as Vice Chair of the School Board for the Detroit Public Schools, Chairman of the Schools of the 21st Century Corporation, President and Trustee of The Skillman Foundation, the first Deputy Mayor of Detroit, and President of New Detroit, Inc. His successful career in the private sector included key leadership positions at Burroughs/Unisys Corporation, Envirotech Systems Corporation in Phoenix and the Ford Motor Company.

Bill also enjoyed a long and noteworthy career in federal service from

1967 through the early 1980s. Over a period of eight years, he served Senator Phil Hart in several capacities including Policy Adviser in his Washington office for four years, Chief of Staff of the Senator's office in Detroit for three years, and Campaign Assistant for one year. Bill subsequently served as Staff Director to the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Equal Opportunity, chaired by Representative Gus Hawkins. Sought out by President Jimmy Carter, Bill was nominated and confirmed first as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and later as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Bill joined with several of his staff colleagues to establish the first minority congressional staff group to study and act on the political and legislative demands of minority communities nationwide. The group's pioneering efforts in Quitman and Cohoma Counties in Mississippi, along with civil rights leader JOHN LEWIS and, my brother, SANDER LEVIN (both of whom now serve in the House) helped to mark a new and powerful political and participatory direction for the people of the Mississippi Delta. Wise and loyal colleagues—Gordon Alexander, Jackie Parker, Judy Jackson, Willa Rawls Dumas, Alan Boyd, Dora Jean Malachi, Mattie Barrow and Bob Parker—declared Bill their leader. The group moved ahead and soon designed the legendary mission to the Mississippi Delta; and, under the direction of Julian Bond of the then-Southern Elections Fund, pursued other worthy political initiatives, during a time when there was only a handful of minority elected officials nationwide.

Mr. President, I include for the RECORD the names of the members of the William J. Beckham, Jr. Memorial Committee, all of whom were former staff colleagues of Bill's during his tenure of federal service, including my current Deputy Legislative Director Jackie Parker. These devoted friends and former colleagues organized this week's great tribute to Bill and will be attesting, along with others, to the truly incredible life that Bill led and the impact he had on their lives. They are as follows:

WILLIAM J. BECKHAM, JR. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Gordon Alexander, Legislative Assistant, former Senator Birch Bayh

*President, 40+ Parenting, Inc.

Robert Bates, former Special Assistant, Senator Edward Kennedy

Alan Boyd, Senior Aide, former Senator Clifford Case

*Charitable Games Control Board

George Dalley, former Chief of Staff, Rep. Charles Rangel

Winifred Donaldson, Chief of Staff, former Rep. Andy Jacobs

Willa Rawls Dumas, Office Manager, former Rep. Silvio Conti

*Vice President for Administration, Directions Data, Inc.

Ernestine Hunter, Senior Aide, former Senator John Glenn

Judy Jackson, Senior Aide, former Rep. Bob Eckhardt and Ex Assistant,

Senate Finance Committee
 *Executive Assistant, TRESP Associates
 Carolyn Jordan, Legislative Assistant,
 former Senator Alan Cranston and Counsel,
 Senate Banking Committee

*Executive Director, National Credit Union
 Administration

Dora Jean Malachi, Senior Aide to former
 Senator Walter Huddleston and Senate Budget
 Committee

Mary Maynard, Clerk, House Sub-
 committee on Equal Opportunity

*AFL-CIO Legislative Division

Jackie B. Parker, Legislative Assistant,
 former Rep. James A. Burke

*Deputy Legislative Director, Senator Carl
 Levin

Annette C. Wilson, *U.S. Department of
 Transportation

*Currently

Mr. President, Bill leaves his beloved
 mother, Gertrude; his wife Mattie,
 their two children, Monica and Jeffrey;
 Bill's three older sons, William, III,
 Jonathan, and Reverend Eric Beckham;
 his two sisters Connie Evans and
 Elaine Beckham of Florida; his brother
 Charles of Detroit; seven grand-
 children, and enumerable friends. To-
 gether we will celebrate his life and
 cherish his memory.●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JAY L. JOHNSON

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise
 today to recognize and honor Admiral
 Jay L. Johnson, United States Navy,
 our 26th Chief of Naval Operations, as
 he prepares to turn over the helm of
 the United States Navy to his suc-
 cessor.

As former Secretary of the Navy and
 a member of the Armed Services Com-
 mittee for 22 years, I have worked
 closely with every Chief of Naval Op-
 erations since 1969. Admiral Johnson, in
 my view, ranks with the finest of this
 long line of great Chiefs.

Thirty-six years ago, on the 30th of
 June, 1964, a young Midshipman John-
 son raised his hand on Tecumseh Court
 at the United States Naval Academy
 and took his oath of office to support
 and defend the Constitution. In the
 years since that day he has devoted in-
 deed all of his great energy and talent
 to that task. Oceans of water have
 passed beneath the keels of the ships
 he has commanded and many men and
 women have stood proudly on their
 decks. He has been steadfast in his cov-
 enant to this nation and his devotion
 to those with whom he has served. An
 illustrious career gives eloquent testi-
 mony to his service to our country and
 his leadership of its Navy.

He was commissioned an Ensign upon
 his graduation in 1968 and, demon-
 strating exceptional tactical and
 technical acumen, he soloed in both
 propeller and jet aircraft within six
 months, setting the pace for a most im-
 pressive future.

His first sea duty tour was aboard
 U.S.S. *Oriskany* (CVA 34), where he
 made two combat cruises flying and
 fighting the F-8J Crusader over Viet-
 nam with the Hellcats of VF-191. He
 flew the F-14 Tomcat as a Ghost rider

of VF-142, a Grim Reaper of VF-101,
 and as Commanding Officer of the
 Jolly Rogers of VF-84.

Admiral Johnson's follow-on sea
 tours demonstrated the tactical bril-
 liance and the consensus-building
 skills that would characterize his ten-
 ure as CNO. As Commander, Carrier
 Air Wing ONE, he planned and coordi-
 nated the joint Navy and Air Force air
 strikes against Libya in response to
 terrorist acts in Europe. In this same
 carrier airwing, he successfully inte-
 grated the F/A-18C with the F-14, pro-
 viding a superior day-night combat ca-
 pability to our forward-deployed car-
 rier battle groups.

Admiral Johnson's early shore as-
 signments reinforced his commitment
 to our Sailors as he served in the Bu-
 reau of Naval Personnel, detailing jun-
 ior aviation officers. His selection to
 the prestigious Chief of Naval Op-
 erations' Strategic Studies Group further
 cemented his reputation as a Naval
 Warfare visionary, and marked him as
 a future leader of our nation's Navy.

As a new Flag Officer, Admiral John-
 son went back to the Bureau of Naval
 Personnel, where his profound concern
 for the well being of our Sailors re-
 sulted in dramatic improvements in re-
 tention and support of our Fleet Sail-
 ors. It is particularly noteworthy that
 these institutional changes were or-
 chestrated at the same time he was co-
 ordinating the Navy's activation and
 call-up of Reserve Sailors in support of
 Operation Desert Shield and Desert
 Storm.

Back to sea in command of U.S.S.
Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group, his
 tactical acumen and diplomatic skills
 proved key to a more efficient and
 combat-ready coalition of forces in
 Bosnian Theater operations.

But nowhere was Admiral Johnson's
 leadership, focus on mission execution,
 and consensus-building skill more bril-
 liantly demonstrated than in his next
 assignment as Commander, Second
 Fleet: Striking Fleet Atlantic and
 Joint Task Force 120. He simulta-
 neously guided the *Eisenhower* Battle
 Group through preparations for its de-
 ployment to the Sixth Fleet while serv-
 ing as the Deputy Commander for Op-
 eration Uphold Democracy, which re-
 stored the democratically elected gov-
 ernment to Haiti.

After serving as the Vice-Chief of
 Naval Operations, Admiral Johnson
 took the helm of our Navy as its 26th
 Chief. He has exemplified the quiet dig-
 nity and honor of that office, ably and
 wisely counseling leaders at the high-
 est echelons of our Government. His
 leadership, integrity and foresight have
 set a true and steady course for the
 Navy as it transitions into the 21st
 century. It has been written in ancient
 annals that "anyone can hold the helm
 when the sea is calm." This man took
 the helm of our Navy in heavy seas.
 Steering by a constellation of four
 guide stars—Operational Primacy,
 Leadership, Teamwork, and Pride—Ad-
 miral Johnson guided the Navy

through the shoals of four tempestuous
 years, balancing mandated reductions
 in forces with dramatically increased
 operational tasking. The Fleet's mis-
 sion accomplishment in our forward
 operating areas overseas—at the tip of
 the spear—was never placed in doubt.
 And never for a moment did he loose
 sight of the interests of the men and
 women of our Navy.

Admiral Johnson empowered the
 Navy's commanding officers by remov-
 ing unnecessary inspections and bur-
 densome paperwork, and gave these
 skippers the opportunity to lead and
 truly command their ships, sub-
 marines, squadrons, and SEAL teams.
 He also led the Joint Chiefs of Staff in
 calling for much-needed increases in
 the Navy's budget: Pay Table Reform
 and the reform of the Retirement Pro-
 gram are resulting in dramatic in-
 creases in retention of the Navy's most
 valuable asset—our Sailors.

Admiral Johnson's legacy for the fu-
 ture of Naval Warfare is embodied in
 his vision of the Navy at sea and
 ashore. At sea, he has boldly com-
 mitted his service to build upon the
 Navy's strategy laid down in "Forward
 From the Sea" and the Marine Corps'
 "Operational Maneuver From the Sea."
 He has championed the creation of a
 Navy and Marine Corps team that will
 directly and decisively influence events
 ashore—anytime, anywhere. He has fo-
 cused the Navy's research, develop-
 ment and investment capital upon im-
 proving the Fleet's ability to conduct
 Land Attack Warfare, Theater Air and
 Missile Defense, and Organic Mine
 Warfare. Admiral Johnson has prepared
 the Sailors and the Fleet to defeat fu-
 ture threats and he has created an in-
 formation technology revolution at
 sea, which is dramatically and irrevers-
 ibly changing the way we employ our
 Navy in peacetime, crisis, and war.

Ashore, Admiral Johnson has re-in-
 vigorated the Naval War College, re-
 minding us of the years prior to World
 War II, when the Navy's war games an-
 ticipated nearly every enemy oper-
 ation. He has conducted Battle Experi-
 ments with cutting-edge technology
 and brought together the best minds of
 government, academia, business, and
 the military to create new rule sets for
 an international security environment
 characterized by an Internet-driven,
 global economy.

Standing beside this officer through-
 out his superb career has been his wife
 Garland, a lady to whom he owes
 much. She has been his key supporter,
 devoting her life to her husband, to her
 family and to the men and women of
 the Navy family. She has traveled by
 his side for these many years visiting
 the Fleet. Her sacrifice and devotion
 have served as an example and inspira-
 tion for others. This team has served
 our Navy well and we will miss them
 both.

With these words before the Senate, I
 seek to recognize Admiral Johnson for
 his unswerving loyalty to the Navy and
 the Nation. From the beginning, he has